

## Writing Bills for 4-H Legislature

Each year, the 4-H Legislature Planning Committee is responsible for developing the bills that will be used at Florida 4-H Legislature. The committee welcomes and invites 4-H members, volunteers and Extension Agents to submit bills and/or ideas for bills.

[Send bill ideas to the 4-H Legislature Planning Committee Chair](#)

### WRITING BILLS

Laws are established when legislators agree that proposed bills are in the best interest of the state and favorably pass the bills. However, the process involved in creating, debating, and passing or defeating bills is complex.

Just like citizens who propose bills at the state and federal levels of government, 4-H citizens influence this event by proposing bills to use during the Florida 4-H Legislature event. Assistance comes from various county officials and community resources.

Proposed bills are considered in one of six committees:

- Agriculture & Natural Resources • Education • Criminal Justice • Health & Human Resources • Government, Commerce & Transportation • Juvenile Justice

### Submitting Bills and ideas for bills:

Any 4-H member may submit a bill or an idea for a bill to be included for consideration among the bills for Florida 4-H Legislature. The 4-H Legislature Committee and Adult Steering Committee, with the approval of the Associate Dean of Florida 4-H, will make the final decision as to which bills are published for use at Florida 4-H Legislature.

### Timeline for submitting bills:

**Ideas for bills are requested by mid-October. Formatted Bills are requested the last business day in November.** Ideas for bills and formatted bills should be submitted to the [4-H Legislature Planning Committee Chair](#). Each bill submitted should also include one pro statement and one con statement. Bills to be considered for the next year's 4-H Legislature may also be submitted during the current 4-H Legislature.

### Purpose of Bills:

Each 4-H bill is designed to correct an existing problem somewhere in the state. As is often the case, a bill affects groups of people in entirely different ways. In other words, a benefit for one group may be a disadvantage for another group. Due to differences in opinion, lobby groups are established as "vested interest" groups. The purpose of each "vested interest" group is to promote passage of legislation that is beneficial to their group. In a similar manner, lobby groups guard against unnecessary legislation or legislation not beneficial to their group.

**For example, if you had a bill idea on oil drilling, see below to find current legislation at [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com) & then how to write a 4-H bill on this topic.**



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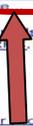
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Click on the general topic "Natural Resources..."



Select Year:

### The 2010 Florida Statutes

[Title XXVIII](#)  
NATURAL RESOURCES; CONSERVATION, RECLAMATION, AND USE

[Chapter 377](#)  
ENERGY RESOURCES

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**377.242 Permits for drilling or exploring and extracting through well holes or by other means.**—The department is vested with the power and authority:

(1)(a) To issue permits for the drilling for, exploring for, or production of oil, gas, or other petroleum products which are to be extracted from below the surface of the land, including submerged land, only through the well hole drilled for oil, gas, and other petroleum products.

1. No structure intended for the drilling for, or production of, oil, gas, or other petroleum products may be permitted or constructed on any submerged land within any bay or estuary.
2. No structure intended for the drilling for, or production of, oil, gas, or other petroleum products may be permitted or constructed within 1 mile seaward of the coastline of the state.
3. No structure intended for the drilling for, or production of, oil, gas, or other petroleum products may be permitted or constructed within 1 mile of the seaward boundary of any state, local, or federal park or aquatic or wildlife preserve or on the surface of a freshwater lake, river, or stream.

4. No structure intended for the drilling for, or production of, oil, gas, or other petroleum products may be permitted or constructed within 1 mile inland from the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, or any bay or estuary or within 1 mile of any freshwater lake, river, or stream unless the department is satisfied that the natural resources of such bodies of water and shore areas of the state will be adequately protected in the event of accident or blowout.

5. Without exception, after July 1, 1989, no structure intended for the drilling for, or production of, oil, gas, or other petroleum products may be permitted or constructed south of 26°00'00" north latitude off Florida's west coast and south of 27°00'00" north latitude off Florida's east coast, as defined in 43 U.S.C. s. 1301. After July 31, 1989, no structure intended for the drilling for, or production of, oil, gas, or other petroleum products may be permitted or constructed south of 26°00'00" north latitude off Florida's west coast and south of 27°00'00" north latitude off Florida's east coast to the northern boundary of the state bordering Georgia, as set forth in s. 1, Art. II of the State Constitution, within the boundaries of Florida's territorial seas as defined in 43 U.S.C. s. 1301.

(b) Subparagraphs (a)1. and 4. do not apply to permitting or construction of structures intended for the drilling for, or production of, oil, gas, or other petroleum products pursuant to an oil, gas, or mineral lease of such lands by the state under which lease any valid drilling permits are in effect on the effective date of this act. In the event that such permits contain conditions or

Find the section that might be edited for 4-H Legislature

4.No structure intended for the drilling for, or production of, oil, gas, or other petroleum products may be permitted or constructed within 1 mile inland from the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, or any bay or estuary or within ~~1~~ 2 miles of any freshwater lake, river, or stream unless the department ~~is satisfied~~ has proven through scientific assessments that the natural resources of such bodies of water and shore areas of the state will be adequately protected in the event of accident or blowout.

Decide what part of the legislation should be amended.

**FLORIDA 4-H LEGISLATURE**

Sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_ Committee/Bill Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ Referred to Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

A Bill to Be Entitled

An act relating to

Be it hereby enacted by the Florida 4-H Legislature

Section 1 is created to read:

\*\*\*\*\*

**SUMMARY**

Coding: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underlined are additions.

Insert it into template, using this verbiage.

**FLORIDA 4-H LEGISLATURE**

Sponsors: Name Committee/Bill Number:  
County: County Referred to Committee:

**A Bill to Be Entitled**

An act relating to the sale of raw milk, providing an effective date.

Be it hereby enacted by the Florida 4-H Legislature:

Section 1 is created to read: FSS 502.091 should be amended to read: ~~It shall be hereby mandatory that only Grade A pasteurized milk and milk products or certified pasteurized milk shall be sold to the final consumer or to restaurants, soda fountains, grocery stores, or similar establishments.~~ Any person, firm or corporation engaged in the production of milk in Florida, which milk or the products thereof are to be used or disposed of elsewhere than on the premises where such milk is to be produced, and any person, firm or corporation engaged in the production of milk outside Florida for sale within Florida, shall register with the Commissioner of Agriculture in a manner prescribed, and on forms furnished by the commissioner for such registration. Such registration shall be renewed annually, during the first six months of the calendar year.

Section 2: Milk shall not be used, sold or disposed of away from the dairy farm located in Florida without a permit from the commissioner. Milk shall not be sold directly or indirectly into Florida from a dairy farm located outside Florida without a permit from the commissioner.

Section 3: Such permits shall be designated "Dairy Farm or Milk Producer Permit" and may be suspended or revoked by the commissioner for cause.

Section 4: Testing shall be administered in order to determine whether a producer's retail raw milk meets quality standards as set by the Commissioner. All such testing shall be conducted in accordance with procedures described in the latest edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products, published by the American Public Health Association. Such testing shall demonstrate that a producer's milk has met the following standards:

(a) Bacteria count. Retail raw milk shall not exceed thirty thousand (30,000) colonies standard plate count per milliliter and fifty (50) coliform count per milliliter.

(b) Somatic Cells. The somatic cell count shall be no more than one million per milliliter of retail raw milk.

(c) Sediment. A milk sediment test shall be conducted by a State approved laboratory. Such test results shall comply with the Number 2 USDA sediment standard and shall be reported to the Commissioner.

Section 5: This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2011

\*\*\*\*\*

**SUMMARY**

This bill will permit the sale of raw milk directly from the farm within limitations.

Coding: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underlined are additions.

*Pro: This bill allows for the milk industry to provide additional products to market.*

*Con: Removes state oversight on the quality of milk products provided to the consumer.*

**This is an example of a bill written about raw milk.**

**Be sure you also send one pro and one con statement about each bill you submit.**

